

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Vitter
United States Senator
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

May 8, 2009

Senator Vitter:

We are writing to express our concern over the hold you have placed on Craig Fugate's nomination to become Director of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Our experience is that Mr. Fugate, former Director of Florida's Division of Emergency Management, is well-equipped to address FEMA's needs and the needs of states like ours that face natural disasters. He is a strong leader who is widely respected by members of both political parties and our communities.

We are too close to hurricane season to delay any preparation for a catastrophe. As you know, FEMA is tasked with preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation before, during and after a natural disaster. Mr. Fugate's record in Florida was superb, and we are proud to support him as he seeks confirmation so that he can replicate his efforts on a national scale.

We understand that you would like to obtain answers from FEMA on issues surrounding Hurricane Katrina. We urge you to allow the nomination process to move forward so that Mr. Fugate can address these issues as Director. In his new role, he will be in a better position to help your constituents and ours. Mr. Fugate's years of experience set him apart from some of his predecessors, and he is not responsible for his predecessors' mistakes. Rather, his nomination should be allowed to move forward in the process so that he can quickly and completely address the failures of previous administrations.

The delay in Mr. Fugate's confirmation could have grave consequences for the people of Louisiana, Florida and all other states, and its urgency cannot be overstated. We are concerned that with hurricane season less than a month away, any further delay of Mr. Fugate's confirmation could dramatically hinder preparedness efforts. We respectfully request that you immediately release your hold on Mr. Fugate's nomination and allow the process to move forward without delay.

Sincerely,








